

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: INFORMATION-WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

REF: GENEVA 569

1. THE NATO EXPERTS ARE TRYING TO ENCOMPASS IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ALL ISSUES IN SUBJECT PAPER SIMULTANEOUSLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSURE THAT SOVIETS PAY A PRICE FOR ANYTHING THAT IS DROPPED. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES KEY ISSUES, INDICATES COURSE WE PLAN TO FOLLOW AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON ONE POINT (PARA 2D BELOW).

2. IN OUR VIEW FOUR CRITICAL ITEMS WHICH SOVIETS SAY THEY CANNOT ACCEPT, REMAIN:

A) TIMING COMMITMENT ON VARIOUS DECISIONS TO GRANT PERMISSION-THIS IS A FACTOR IN THREE PARAS OF THE TEXT AND WE BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS MUST EVENTUALLY GIVE WAY IN ONE OR MORE CASES. THE TIMING OF OFFICIAL REPLIES TO THEIR REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL ETC., IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO JOURNALISTS, AND WE WILL KEEP PRESSING ISSUE.

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B) "TECHNICAL STAFF" INCLUSION IN PROVISIONS-
SOVIETS CLEARLY REGARD "TECHNICAL STAFF" AS
COVER FOR INTELLIGENCE AGENTS. THE ITEM IS
IMPORTANT FOR FILMING AND MAY BE OBTAINABLE IF
TERMINOLOGY IS MADE MORE SPECIFIC TO DEFINE
DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF TECHNICAL
STAFF AND LIMIT NUMBERS TO THOSE CLEARLY RE-
QUIRED FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES. WE WILL
CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY.

C) ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS-MOST NATO DELS BELIEVE
THAT ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS IS ALMOST HOPELESS,
REALIZING THAT IT IS ALSO A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR
JOURNALISTS, US DEL HAS KEPT IT ALIVE, AND WILL
CONTINUE TO DO.

D) EXPULSION-WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIETS CAN
PROBABLY ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN SWISS TEXT: BEGIN
TEXT: "IF AN ACCREDITED JOURNALIST IS EXPELLED
FROM HIS COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE, HE HAS THE RIGHT
TO BE INFORMED OF THE REASONS FOR THIS ACT
AND TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR RE-EXAMINATION
OF HIS CASE". END TEXT

NATO EXPERTS ARE SPLIT ON THE VALUE OF THAT
LANGUAGE. IT SEEMS TO SOME TO BE ONLY AN ENDORSE-
MENT OF THE STATUS QUO WHILE OTHERS FEEL THAT ANY
MENTION OF THE TOPIC IS WORTH GETTING. WE DOUBT
THAT ANY BETTER LANGUAGE CAN BE OBTAINED ON THE
SUBJECT AND ARE INCLINED TO REJECT THE SWISS TEXT
BECAUSE THE SOVIETS WILL SELL IT AS A CONCESSION
EVEN THOUGH IT OBVIOUSLY OFFERS NOTHING. REQUEST
DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON "EXPULSION" TEXT BY MARCH 10.

3. NATO EXPERTS HAVE AGREED TO KEEP ALL FOUR ISSUES
MENTIONED IN PARA 2 ABOVE IN PLAY, BUT OUR ALLIES
APPEAR RESIGNED THAT FINAL LANGUAGE ON ANY WILL
LIKELY BE WEAK AND AMBIGUOUS. DEVELOPMENTS MAY COME
RAPIDLY SINCE SOVIETS ARE CONCENTRATING CONSIDERABLE
EFFORTS ON THIS PAPER. DALE
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